

## Shinfield's best kept secret?

The ever-popular Kennet Morris Men, who appear throughout the summer around Berkshire and South Oxfordshire, are based nowhere near the Kennet River, but in Shinfield. We've been going too long – since 1957 - to change our name (to the Loddon Morris?), but are still proud to be a part of Shinfield "village". We have been practicing on Monday evenings since 1978 at St Mary's Church Hall and have been supporting The Bell & Bottle after our exertions for many years – and beers – though you may have seen us practicing on School Green last summer as a result of lockdown regulations. As we're out and about across the region, our performances in Shinfield itself have been somewhat limited. It would be good to change that with a few more locals on board, especially new arrivals who may want to become part of our community.



**Kennet performing at Shinfield's 900th Anniversary Celebrations 1971**

Morris is undergoing something of a revival – people seem to want to enjoy themselves post-covid – and we certainly need more dancers to join in the fun now as quite a few of our long-standing members are reaching the end of their dancing careers. As well as the enjoyment The Kennet can offer fellowship – many of us are now lifelong friends – and a way of keeping fit (it is quite energetic), and many would say it certainly improves your well-being, dancing away any blues.



**Kennet End of Season Tour of Winchester 2022**

You may have joined in on one of our "invitationals" during the course of past years' dance seasons, and promised to learn more, or just seen us madly enjoying ourselves keeping alive our fantastic traditions and thought "Now that's having fun!". Whatever the reason, come along and experience "Cotswold" for yourself. If it grabs you, (and be warned, it is very addictive) we have dance instructors ready, willing and able to turn you into a Morris dancer on any Monday evening ready for next year's season. Musicians (acoustic) are always welcome, whatever your gender, but we are a men's dancing team. Under-18s may become members, provided that they have permission of a parent or other suitably responsible, approved adult.

If you join early enough in the practice season you'll have several months to learn some dances before we start our summer dancing season in May. However we will accommodate new recruits at any time in the season, and can lay on instructional anytime. It's never too late (especially if you have some experience). We've put together a Your Welcome To Kennet Morris to help new dancers find their feet. To find out even more just go online and or go to <http://www.kennetmorrismen.co.uk/join.php> or find our Kennet Morris Men Facebook Page.

From now to the end of April, we meet each Monday evening (except over Christmas & Easter) at 8.00 p.m. for a couple of hours of practice. Our venue is St Mary's Church Hall, Shinfield. The hall, not surprisingly, is close to St Mary's church, in Church Lane, and not far from The Bell & Bottle, Shinfield School Green where we relax from 10:00pm.